

February 19, 2017

**Appropriations Committee
Testimony Governor's Bill HB-7027
Public Hearing**

Members of the Committee:

HB-7027 is a bill concerning the State budget and includes an increase for pistol permit fees.

I urge that you OPPOSE HB 7027 Section 48 (T1854) and Section 58 (T1938) that include the Governor's proposed pistol permit rate hike.

This bill represents poor public policy. The Governor as well as the Connecticut Delegation publically endorses common sense gun regulations for the State, and this bill flies in the face of that endorsement.

Common sense gun regulations include the fundamental principle that regulations are in place that allow for the application and issuance of a pistol permit in a simple and cost-effective process to encourage the use of the permit process. A process that is complicated or that is cost punishing will only deter current and prospective gun owners from renewing permits. This will then create a situation where the sale and transport of handguns will be conducted outside of the regulatory process ... putting more guns in the hands of those who do not follow the regulations.

The Governor and his Director of OPM have a long history of “attacks” on sportsmen, in spite of his public position that he advocates “common sense” gun regulation. Over the last three biennial budgets offered by Governor Malloy, the fish hatchery program and the pheasant stocking program have each been singled out for budget cuts ... these programs are fully funded by Connecticut Sportsmen thru their license, permits and stamp fee purchases.

I am a second amendment supporter, long time CT gun permit holder and outdoor enthusiast. Connecticut pistol permit fees are already triple the national average.

I realize that action must be taken to reduce the budget deficit. Unreasonable increases in permit fees/taxes are not the way to reduce this gap.

I URGE YOU TO OPPOSE this provision and any more attacks on the citizens who value their second amendment rights and who own and carry pistols or other firearms in accordance with the current laws of this state.

Respectfully submitted,

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